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News

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Dulles Out

The long-heralded change in the top command of the Central Intelligence Agency has finally occurred.

Allen W. Dulles has resigned the post he held for eight years as head of the super-secret agency.

For the moment, the fact Dulles is out is more important than the appointment of his successor—John A. McCone, former head of the Atomic Energy Commission and a Republican. President Kennedy, of course, made the required polite remarks about Dulles, praising him for his "courageous and selfless" public service.

But everybody knows that the CIA under Dulles goofed badly again and again.

It guessed wrong twice on Cuba. It was late in catching on to the fact that Fidel Castro was winning against Dictator Fulgencio Batista and that Castro, now premier, was headed for the Red camp. It goofed more seriously in the failure of the invasion in April.

The CIA goofed in the case of Francis G. Powers, whose U-2 plane was downed in Russia just before the Paris Summit Meeting of 1960. That gave Soviet Premier Khrushchev an excuse to end the meeting with a powerful propaganda blast.

The CIA was caught completely off-base by the Korea military coup of last July.

We wish McCone all success. We hope he puts some intelligence into the Central Intelligence Agency.